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RMR

FROM: BERLIN

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 110, JULY 22, 6 PM

SENT DEPARTMENT 110, BONN 101, REPEATED INFORMATION LONDON 26,
PARIS 25, GENEVA 42, POLAD USAREUR 16, MOSCOW UNNUMBERED

GENEVA FOR HILLENBRAND, PARIS FOR EMBASSY, USRO, CINGEUR
THURSTON AND WEST.

REF: OURTEL 98 TO BONN, 105 DEPT

FOLLOWING WRITTEN PROTEST RE INCIDENT DESCRIBED REFTEL SENT
SOV COMMANDANT BY USCIB TODAY:

BEGIN TEXT

A MOST SERIOUS INCIDENT INVOLVING AN AMERICAN MILITARY
TRAIN OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER 1930 HOURS ON EVENING JULY 20.
AT THIS TIME AT POTSDAM RAILROAD STATION THE AMERICAN TRAIN
COMMANDER OBSERVED SEVERAL ARMED GERMAN UNIFORMED PERSONNEL
ATTEMPTING BOARD TRAIN. AT LEAST ONE CASE TRESPASS ACTUALLY
OCCURRED BEFORE TRAIN COMMANDER ORDERED VIOLATORS TO DESIST.

I STRONGLY PROTEST THIS UNWARRANTED AND UNPRECEDENTED INTER-
FERENCE WITH AN AMERICAN MILITARY TRAIN AND REQUEST THAT
YOU TAKE IMMEDIATE AND DECISIVE MEASURES TO PREVENT A RE-
CURRENCE OF SUCH ACTIVITIES.

END TEXT

ACTING BRITISH AND FRENCH POLADS AGREED WITH OUR CONCLUSION
THAT STRONG WRITTEN PROTEST BE MADE IN ORDER DISCOURAGE,
IF POSSIBLE, FURTHER INCIDENTS THIS TYPE AND INHIBIT SOV/GDR
EFFORTS DESIGNED: (1) ESTABLISH PRINCIPLE INSPECTION ALL
MILITARY TRAINS; (2) RIGHT OF EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS INTERFERE

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-2- 110, JULY 22, 6 PM, FROM BERLIN.

WITH ALLIED MILITARY TRAIN TRAFFIC, AND (3) RIGHT OF EXERCISE OF "CONTROL FUNCTION" IN PLACE OTHER THAN CHECKPOINT.

BRITISH AND FRENCH ACTING POLADS ALSO CAN FIND NO RECORD THAT THEIR MILITARY TRAIN TRAFFIC PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED INCIDENTS SIMILAR THAT DESCRIBED REFTTEL.

ACTING FRENCH POLAD WHEN INFORMED ABOVE INCIDENT YESTERDAY REPORTED INCIDENT INVOLVING FRENCH MILITARY TRAIN NIGHT OF JUNE 16. WESTBOUND FRENCH TRAIN MADE ROUTINE TRAFFIC HALT AT MAGDEBURG - SOVZONE. TWO RUSSIAN OFFICERS APPROACHED TRAIN AND ASKED BOARD TO SEARCH FOR TWO EAST GERMANS. FRENCH REFUSED THEM ADMITTANCE. AFTER TEN MINUTES IMPASSE, GERMAN CIVILIAN TRAIN PULLED INTO STATION, WHEREUPON SOV OFFICERS APOLOGIZED AND SAID EAST GERMANS WERE ON TRAIN JUST ARRIVED. FRENCH TRAIN THEN COMPLETED JOURNEY WITHOUT INCIDENT. IN VIEW SOV OFFICERS' APOLOGY, FRENCH DID NOT PROTEST TO SOV AUTHORITIES.

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